4. M/s. Amar Dyeing Works (Regd.), 66, Veer Nagar, New Delhi-110007.
5. M/s. Midland Fruit and Vegetables (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
6. M/s. Panipat Cooperative Sugars Mills (Distillery Unit), Panipat, Haryana.
7. M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills, Simbhaoli, Ghaziabad.
8. M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills (Distillery), Simbhaoli, Ghaziabad.

[Translation]

Ownership Right to Tendu Leaf Workers

1700. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any districtives to the State Governments to give ownership rights to the people belonging to Scheduld Caste, Scheduld Tribe, Backward Classes and Weaker Sections who are engaged in collecting tendu leaf and other small forest produce in the forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any comments from the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d). The Ministry of Welfare has not issued any directives to State Governments regarding ownership rights to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Class and Weaker Sections engaged in collecting tendu leaf and other small forest produce in the forests. Pursuant to action on Common Minimum Programme of Dalit Manifesto, the matter is under examination, in consultation with the State Governments.

Increase in Price of Phosphatic Fertilizers

1701. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers have been facing great difficulty due to increase in the prices of phosphatic fertilizers at the time of sowing of rabi season crops;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the farmers; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Consequent upon the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August 1992, the prices of these fertilizers had gone up steeply. Immediately after the decontrol, a concession of Rs. 1000 was introduced per tonnes of DAP and MOP; Rs. 340 per tonne of SSP and Rs. 435-999 for various grades of complexes to cushion the impact of rise in prices. Realising that this concession was not sufficient, Government on 6.7.96 effected increase in concession from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 per tonne of indigenous DAP, from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per tonne of HOP, from a range of Rs. 435-999 to a range of Rs. 1304-2633 for various grades of complexes and from Rs. 340 to Rs. 500 per tonne of SSP. At the same time a concession of Rs. 1500 was also extended to imported DAP.

[English]

Terrorism

1702. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are seized of reports that fundamentalist and extremist groups from foreign country operate in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon to prevent operation of such groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Such groups can be broadly classified into Sikh extremists, Kashmiri militants, Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists and Islamic fundamentalists.

(c) State Police authorities and other security agencies are sensitised to closely monitor the activities of all foreign sponsored fundamentalists/terrorist organisations, neutralise their offensive and contain the foreign inspired mischief. All available intelligence input is shared with the concerned State Police authorities to activate counter terrorist measures. For this purpose, regular meetings with intelligence officials of the States affected by terrorism are convened.

Rice Production Scheme in Bihar

1703. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts of Bihar included under the Special Rice Production Scheme;

(b) whether any specific assistance has been provided to the farmers of the State under the said Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Special Rice Production Programme (SRPP) was in operation in Bihar from 1985-86 to 1989-90. Under SRPP, Central funds to tune of Rs. 27.28 crores were

provided to Bihar State Government. A total number of 30 Districts were covered under the Scheme namely Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Gaya, Nawada, Aurangabad, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Singhbhum, Palamu, Ranchi, Suran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Vaishali. Champaran (East), Chamaparan (West) Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani., Saharsa, Madhupura, Purnea, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Munger, Santhalpargana. However, at present an Integrated Cereal Development Programme on Rice based Cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) is being implemented in the State on 75:25 funding pattern between Government of India and State in which assistance is provided to the farmers for transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers as well as incentive for critical inputs such as seed. Farm implements etc.

Consumer Rights

1704. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness on consumer rights in the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any concrete plan to take the consumer movement to the grassroot level for the benefit of common man;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Union Government on enhancing the consumer awareness during each of the last three years; and

(e) the measures being taken for the speedy disposal of consumer complaints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The Government has taken a number of measures to increase consumer awareness in the country. Such measures include preparation of audio visual material, printed material in the form of boolets, brochures, posters, etc. in the field of consumer protection for propagation of consumer rights. It is also publishing a monthly journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" which disseminates useful information to the consumers in the field of consumer awareness. The printed material as also the journal are distributed free of cost. In addition, Consumer Welfare fund has been set-up to provide financial assistance to the voluntary consumer organizations, etc. for undertaking activities in the field of consumer protection and promoting consumer movement at the grass root level, particularly in the rural areas.

(d) The amount spent by the Central Government to increase consumer awareness in the country was approximately Rs. 99 lakhs, Rs. 136 lakhs and Rs. 191 lakhs during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(e) In order to provide speedy redressal of consumer complaints and also to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer Fora, the Central Government has commenced a scheme of one time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the State and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora.

[Translation]

Sewarage Treatment Plant

1705. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a sewarage treatment plant on the Ring Road near Wazirabad bridge on the river Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on the plant;

(c) whether the said plant is non-functional; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore along-with the details of steps being taken to make the said plant functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Sewage treatment plant based on the oxidation pond technology was set up near Wazirabad Bridge on Ring Road near Timarpur in early 70's. The treatment plant consists of 16 number of oxidation ponds with a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day. The plant is functional. An expenditure of Rs. 14.50 lakhs has been incurred on the operation and maintenance of this plant so far during the current financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension for Old Age Persons

1706. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age persons likely to be benefited under the 'National Old Age Pension Scheme' during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the guidelines being followed for providing old age pension;

(c) the total population of the old age persons as per 1991 census State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to include all eligible old persons under this scheme in Uttar Pradesh;